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NOTES.

THE election of Prof. Woodrow Wilson to the presidency of Princeton University upon the resignation of President Patton is not only a most happy selection, but a fitting instance of development and growth into a position. Mr. Wilson is an alumnus of Princeton and the trustees have followed the plan generally pursued of late in placing the responsibility of the government of the University, when practicable, upon an alumnus. Recent similar instances have been both President Hadley, of Yale, and President Butler, of Columbia. Still more striking, in the election of the presidents of both Yale and Princeton, is the emphasis on the fact that the older tradition of a clergyman as president of a college and university is definitely broken, and that the office primarily demands an educator.

Mr. Wilson has been before the country as a student of history and government for nearly twenty years, and more than seven years ago an article appeared in this REVIEW (February, 1895) on his personality and the significance of his historical and literary worth. This activity has been emphasized since that time by the collection of separate series of essays into volumes, and by the completion of one or more valuable historical works; and the confidence then expressed has been amply justified. A work fully as vital as this has been his lectures to the students of Princeton and the influences that have gone from the crowded recitation room. While the duties of an executive officer nowadays are all engrossing, yet it is to be hoped that what is Princeton's gain will not prove too far the loss of the rest of us in further contributions to the world of literature and thought.

The death of Mr. E. L. Godkin, for many years the brilliant editor of the New York *Evening Post* and its weekly edition, *The Nation*, while not unexpected, came in the nature of a shock to thousands. Since his withdrawal from

journalism he has from time to time contributed to the columns of various publications, and it is said that he was engaged at the time of his death in the preparation of a work embodying the recollections of his life. A native of England, Mr. Godkin came to America in early young manhood and became associated with the newspapers, with which his name was for so many years connected. Independent, downright, and courageous, he wielded immense influence, especially among the more educated Americans, and his death is a distinct loss to the Anglo-Saxon race.

School histories of literature never cease, and three new ones lie on our table: two on American literature and one on English. In the "American Literature," of Prof. A. G. Newcomer, of Leland Stanford (Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Co.), it is the typical that is sought after, and only those authors considered as important receive treatment. The method has much to commend it, and the heart of the book, on "The Creative Impulse—From Maine to Georgia, 1800-1860" is well done for this purpose. The discussion, however, of "Later Activity" is very fragmentary and arbitrary, something also characteristic of the appended "classified list of late and contemporary writers." One expects the two to be mutually illustrative and supplementary, but they are in several ways discordant.

The "American Literature" of Dr. J. W. Abernethy, of Brooklyn (New York: Maynard, Merrill & Co.), is a fuller book. It is somewhat rhetorical in its mode of statement, but is decidedly sprightly, and holds the interest. Two neighboring chapters on "The Anti-Slavery Movement" and "Literature in the South" may be compared, and both will be found equally cordial and in fair proportion. There is a well-selected bibliography of "Biography and Criticism"—the books about books—but not enough said as to the best or most convenient editions of the literary works themselves.

"A History of English Literature," by Profs. Moody and Lovett, of the University of Chicago (New York: Scrib-

ner's), is particularly interesting from the point of view of the proportion assigned to each period, steadily progressing with the importance of the literature nearest our own time. After a rapid survey of the early period of our English literature (59 pp.), follow the Renaissance (64 pp.), the seventeenth century (66 pp.), the eighteenth (80 pp.), and the nineteenth (115 pp.). The Reading Guide, while suffering from some notable omissions, is more than usually valuable; it can only be suggested that for the sake of those school libraries, which must be limited in the number of their books to the needful and most serviceable, it would be well to give some indication as to what is most essential and vital.

There was no more honorable circumstance connected with the Yale celebration than the appearance of the Yale Bicentenary Publications on the part of her professors and instructors. Two of these are of especial interest to students of literature. Prof. Hopkins's "India, Old and New" describes the character of the Rig-Veda, or collections of verse-wisdom, and explains the nature of the two epics, the "Mahabharata" and the "Ramayana" through abundant extracts. Most important of all, there is a luminous discussion of the mutual influences of Christianity and Buddhism, reaching the conclusion that the historical data furnish "no basis for the belief that the original narrative of Christ's birth and teaching derives from Hindu sources." The chapters on famine and plague are vivid pictures of modern conditions in India.

Prof. Lounsbury's "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Artist" is a consideration of the Shakespearean wars that waged fearlessly in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. "Did Shakespeare Want Art?" is the question suggested, and the various opinions as to this furnish ample food for thought and entertainment, of which Prof. Lounsbury most genially takes advantage. That Shakespeare was a conscious artist, and greater than his critics in his knowledge of and mastery over art forms, is a belief that Prof. Lounsbury fully corroborates and is now generally accepted.